

# Project Proposal

**Proposal Title:** Dry Lake Aspen Protection

**Proposal Number:** 1480

**DWR Region:** Southern Region

**Lead Agency:** USFS

**County:** Garfield

**Project Manager:** Lisa Young

**PM Phone:** 4358656113

**Regional Priority:** Within Focus Area

**Project Type:** Terrestrial Habitat

**Proposed Start Date:** 7/1/2009

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**Project Location:** 2.5 miles east of McGath Lake

**Project Description:** Construct a fence around previously harvested aspen clearcut. 18 acres.

**Description of Problem/Need:** Ungulate browsing levels have exceeded the ability of the aspen regeneration treatment to re-stock the area with aspen seedlings. Without a reduction in damage from browsing, the area will succeed to meadow. Area is approximately 18 acres.

The goal of the treatment was to restore aspen dominated forests in the landscape. This treatment area was identified as a seral mature aspen stand converting to conifers. The area had been clearcut harvested removing most of the aspen and conifer. This treatment was part of the Dry Lake Timber Sale which harvested approximately 125 acres for aspen regeneration. All of the other treatment areas have successfully regenerated to aspen. This project represents the last treatment area to meet objectives. One of the successful units had been fenced, and this protection measure was proven successful in protecting seedlings from browsing and was removed in 2007.

**Objectives:** Reduce browsing for 3-7 years to allow the area to be stocked with 6 foot aspen seedlings. Density should meet or exceed 5,000 stems per acre.

**Relevance to Strategic Plans:** Aspen forest habitat is identified in the Wildlife Action Plan as one of the top ten key habitats. As discussed in the plan, the quantity and condition of aspen forests are declining. This treatment was part of the Dry Lake Timber Sale which harvested approximately 125 acres for aspen regeneration. This treatment has and will achieve the conservation action of restoring aspen habitat.

Attaining the goal of re-stocking the site to aspen seedlings meets the objectives described in the Pretty Tree Bench Vegetation Project Environmental Impact Statement. The need for this action was to increase the younger age class and structure within the aspen type which would then strengthen the overall health of the aspen ecosystem, and develop and increase forage availability and habitat for wildlife species.

**Potential Risks:** Without additional protection measures, most the treatment area would convert to meadows, which over time would be stocked with Douglas-fir and subalpine fir.

**Proposed Methods:** Construct a wire and post fence around the treatment area. The fence would be designed to prevent deer, elk, and domestic cows. The fence would be maintained each year until the area has met stocking requirements. This project will be included as a service item in a stewardship contract.

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**Shapefile Name:** S:/DWR/HPD-2010/GIS Shape Files/1480.shp

**Seed Source:**

**UPCD Reg Team Coord Date:**

**Proposed NEPA Action:**

**Proposed Arch Action:**

☒ **Vegetation Monitoring** ☐ **Wildlife Monitoring**

**Monitoring Information:** The treatment area would be visited each year to determine the condition of the fence and growth response of the aspen seedlings. Maintenance would be completed as needed. Monitoring would be completed until there is an average of 5,000 stems/acre with a dominant height of 6 feet over 70% of the area.

**Grazing Management:**

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**SPECIES BENEFITING**

# Project Proposal

Northern Goshawk

Williamson's Sapsucker

Mule Deer

Merriam's Wild Turkey

Elk

## LAND OWNERSHIP

Owner	Acres
USFS	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>

## PROPOSED FUNDING

Source	Amount Requested	Date Approved	Amount Approved
Unfunded Balance	\$7,000.00		\$0.00
USFS	\$6,500.00		\$6,500.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$13,500.00</b>		<b>\$6,500.00</b>

## PROPOSED BUDGET

Item	Description	DWR Account	Partner Contrib.
Contractual Services	Fencing materials and contract	\$7,000.00	\$0.00
Other	USFS Contract prep and admin as well as maint.	\$0.00	\$6,500.00
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$7,000.00</b>	<b>\$6,500.00</b>

## Project Map:

